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SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 97 (b)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SPECIAL SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Costa Rica* and Colombia**: draft resolution

Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session, for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/ not later than 1997, for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,

Reaffirming its resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, as the agreed basis that determines the modalities for the preparations for the special session, including the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council mandated to follow-up

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and Corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the role of other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system,

Strongly reaffirming that the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 will be undertaken on the basis of and in full respect of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 2/ in particular principle 7 on the common but differentiated responsibilities of States,

Taking note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session, 3/ and taking into account the views and concerns expressed by delegations to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 and to the Second Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,

Stressing that there should be no attempt to renegotiate Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, 4/ or other intergovernmental agreements in the field of sustainable development, but that discussion should concentrate on commitments and the further implementation of Agenda 21 and related post-Conference outcomes.

1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in General Assembly resolutions 47/190 of 22 December 1992 and 50/113 of 20 December 1995 for a duration of one week, from 23 to 27 June 1997, at the highest possible level of participation;

2. Decides also that the Commission on Sustainable Development will devote the forthcoming meeting of its ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group to be held from 24 February to 7 March 1997, to preparing for the special session, and that the Commission will devote its fifth session, to be held from 7 to 25 April 1997, as a negotiating meeting, to final preparations for the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

3. Calls upon the international community to engage the full participation of high-level scientific and technical experts, consistent with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, both in preparatory meetings and at the special session itself;

4. Requests the Secretariat to provide, not later than 15 January 1997, all relevant reports called for in General Assembly resolution 50/113, including

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2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ..., resolution 1, annex I.

3/ A/51/420.

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ..., resolution 1, annex III.

all other reports related to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Sustainable Development and by the Commission at its fifth session;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that preparations for the comprehensive report are conducted in accordance with paragraph 13 of Assembly resolution 50/113;

6. Also requests:

(a) That other contributing reports/inputs to the special session incorporate, without prejudice, information on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 5/ and the global freshwater assessment and from the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Global Environmental Facility and other bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and information on relevant United Nations conventions dealing with the environment, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer 6/ and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 7/ on regional and inter-sessional meetings organized by countries and on activities organized by major groups, including business and industry, and non-governmental organizations;

(b) That, in the context of the special session, specific modalities be recommended for examining all outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and for undertaking the full review of the Programme of Action in 1999;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General, in his report for the special session on cross-sectoral issues of Agenda 21, to give special consideration to poverty, financial resources and mechanisms, education, science, the transfer of technology, production and consumption patterns, and trade and environment, with respect to the importance of sectoral issues;

8. Welcomes the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, and its relevance to the field of sustainable development, calls for effective

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5/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and Corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

6/ International Legal Materials, vol. 26 (1987), p. 1516.

7/ International Legal Materials, vol. 26, No. 6 (November 1987), p. 1550.

interaction and exchange of information on work carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Human Settlements, and invites the Commission on Human Settlements to make a contribution to the special session in connection with the implementation of the Habitat Agenda 8/ adopted in Istanbul;

9. Recognizes the important contributions made by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and the need for their involvement in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contributions during the special session;

10. Invites Governments and regional organizations that have not yet done so to submit their national profiles as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 50/113;

11. Also invites Governments to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, in participating fully in the special session and its preparatory process, and to make timely contributions to the Trust Fund for Support of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

12. Further invites Governments to participate in the proposed joint meeting of ministers of finance and ministers responsible for the environment during the high-level segment of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to enhance the public information programme of the United Nations in order to raise global awareness in a balanced manner, in all countries, of both the special session and the work undertaken by the United Nations in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and invites all Governments to promote widespread dissemination at all levels of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and to make voluntary contributions to support the public outreach activities of the United Nations for the special session;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the sub-item "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-second session a report on the special session.

8/ A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.